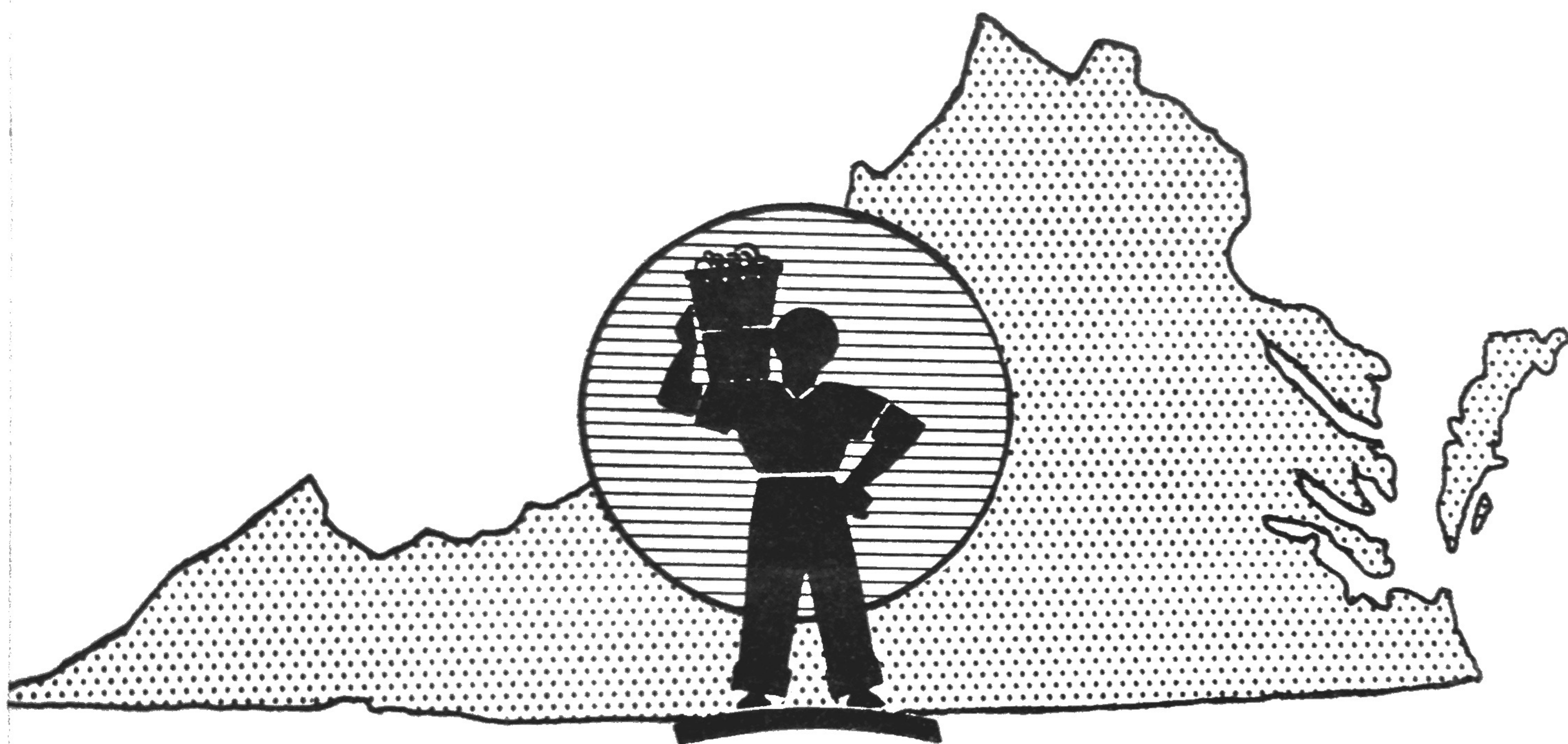


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FARM AND FOOD PROCESSING WORKER PLACEMENT VIRGINIA 1950



ANNUAL
POST-SEASON REPORT

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION
VIRGINIA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

THOUS-
ANDS

SEASONAL FARM WORKERS
TEN SELECTED AREAS
VIRGINIA -- 1950

20

16

12

8

4

LOCAL



OUT OF
AREA



20

HALF OF
MONTH

1ST 2ND
MAY

1ST 2ND
JUN

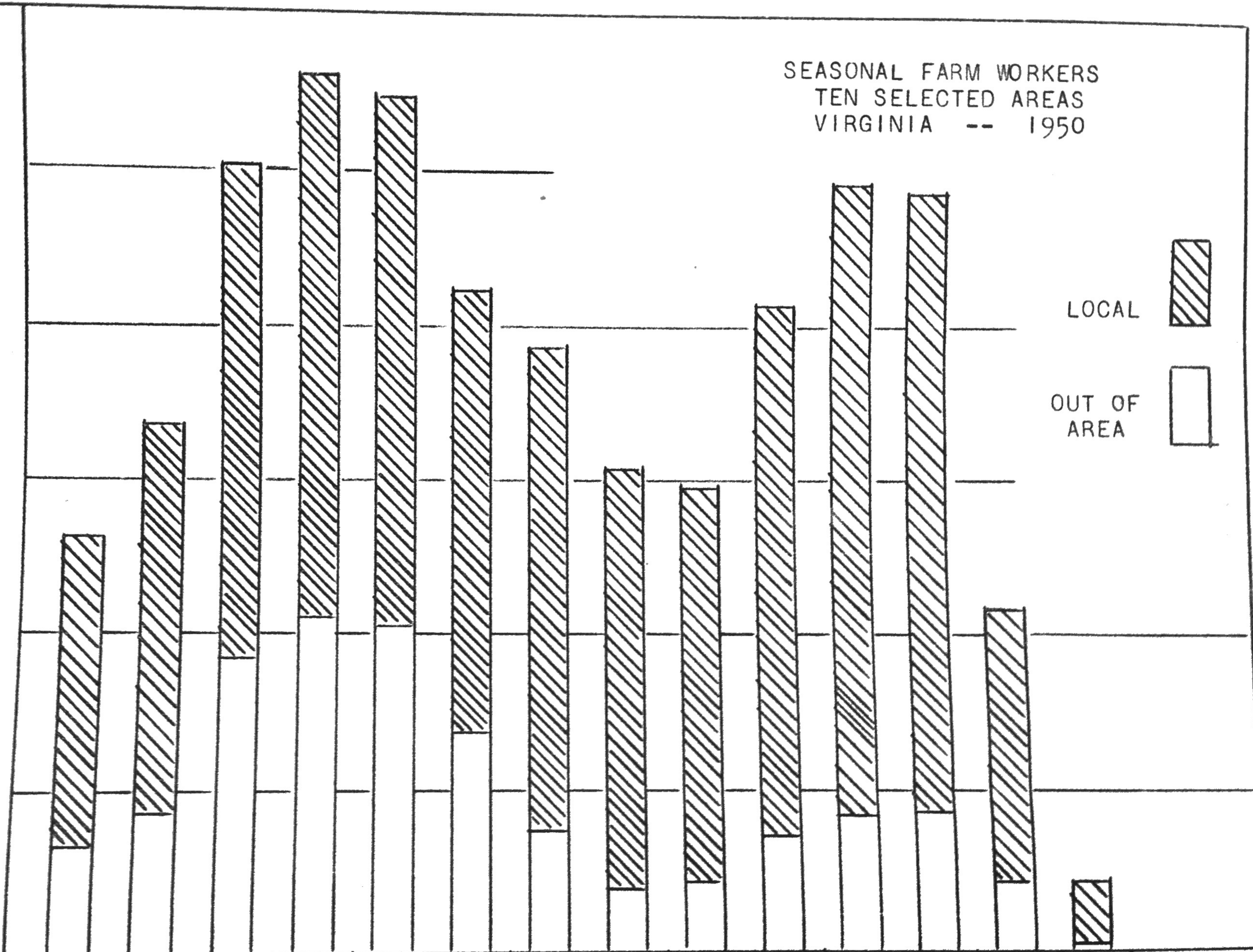
1ST 2ND
JUL

1ST 2ND
AUG

1ST 2ND
SEP

1ST 2ND
OCT

1ST 2ND
NOV





ABOVE: MIGRANT WORKERS ARE LOADED AND READY TO LEAVE THE MELFA CAMP, THEIR TEMPORARY HOME ON THE EASTERN SHORE, FOR A HARVEST ASSIGNMENT IN A POTATO FIELD A FEW MILES DISTANT. THIS GROUP IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THOUSANDS OF SUCH WORKERS GIVEN EMPLOYMENT IN THIS STATE LAST YEAR.

comprising 1,275 groups, were interviewed and furnished some type of assistance or direction at that point. It was also shown that 19,100 were employable, and that 12,755 were males. Non-workers moving with these migrants numbered 2,100, or ten per cent of the total employables.

The firm, written contract was rarely used to bind work agreements between growers and out-of-state workers. Most arrangements assumed the form of verbal understandings, backed by letters of confirmation, which in most instances were prompted by the Employment Service. Under procedures of this nature the Employment Service frequently had the role of intermediary, and sometimes acted as the agent of grower or worker..

OTHER SOURCES - Puerto Rican labor was not used in this state last year. One group of 199 Bahamians was used in the harvest of apples in the Winchester area. This group provided the sum total of all foreign assistance given to Virginia growers.

PUERTO RICAN AND FOREIGN LABOR

Last spring's forecast of heavy apple production in the state Virginia, to ask for a return of Bahamian workers to assure an adequate harvest labor supply. This type of labor had been used in 1949 with success, and on the basis of this request the Employment Service recommended the use of nearly 200 of these workers. The total actually brought into the state and used in this work was 199. They entered Virginia after completion of assignment to agricultural work in the mid-west. The period of employment extended from about September 25 through November 9. However, complete utilization of the force did not actually take place until the first half of October.

In general the work of this labor was satisfactory, and the few exceptions were due to individuals failing to meet requirements specified. The production rate and application was average or above. Although not a serious problem, the handling of payrolls according to procedure agreed upon, proved complicated and somewhat difficult. Food preparation did not become a problem last year since experience of the former year made it possible to adjust the camp menu to food habits.

Upon completion of the apple harvest a group of 24 workers were returned to their homes in the Bahama Islands, and the remainder went south to undertake winter assignments in Florida. At the present time no definite plans have been made with regard to returning this type of labor for the 1951 harvest.

OPPOSITE PAGE AND BELOW: PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASES AND RECRUITMENT PROMOTION, MADE POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS COOPERATION OF VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS, RADIO STATIONS AND AGRICULTURAL MAGAZINES, CONTRIBUTED NOTABLY TO THE FARM PLACEMENT PROGRAM IN 1950. SEVERAL EXAMPLES ARE SHOWN HERE.

700 Migrants Ease Shore Labor Lack

Richmond, Oct. 12 (AP)—Arriving on the Eastern Shore during the past week "substantially eased the shortage of harvest hands in the area," the Virginia State Employment Service said Wednesday.

Growers also utilize a greater number of local workers because of increased yields of tobacco and other crops resulting from recent rains.

If favorable weather continues, the labor needs will expand further, the service said.

"It is hoped," the service said, "that its weekly supply of migrant workers from the North will help to fill the gap and prevent a shortage."

The service said that the requirements for migrant workers are being processed as rapidly as possible.

Quality of labor recruited by the service is being maintained by the use of a "tomato test" to determine the physical fitness of the workers.

Labor Supply for Harvesting Is Adequate

The State Employment Service said today an adequate labor supply was available for harvesting Virginia crops.

Area workers, should be sufficient to handle harvest.

Winchester... Fruit harvest... about 1,350, while this are using 1,500... About 450 out... will supplement...

Leaf Curers Sought Again By Canadians

V. S. E. S. Explains Permit Procedure

An international arrangement between Canada and this country will again make it possible for Canadian tobacco growers to obtain experienced curers from this state, the Virginia State Employment Service said today.

The permit procedure for such workers, L. D. Bennett, local manager of the Virginia State Employment Service office announced today.

Canadian immigration officials, he said, have announced that they will accept the service's policy toward migrant workers.

A SERVICE FOR VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE

Shortages of Farm Hands Reported

Winchester's Needs Are Now Expanding

RICHMOND (AP) The Virginia State Employment Service today reported "minor shortages" of seasonal farm hands were reported during the past week in several areas of the state.

Young people returning to school and migrant workers leaving for other areas, and failure of labor camps to arrive on schedule are the principal causes of the shortages.